

Hinges & Tongs

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A JOINT CELEBRATION OF
AIR MAIL POSTAL HISTORY



The Rochester Philatelic Association is honored to celebrate the 80th anniversary of air mail service from Canandaigua at ROPEX later this month. On May 19th, 1938, the first air mail flight carried mail from Canandaigua to Rochester. **Exactly** 80 years later, on May 19th, 2018, stamp collectors from around the region will be gathering at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center to buy, sell, exhibit and "talk" stamps. The two day show (May 18th 10-6 and May 19th 10-3) will also honor the 100th anniversary of air mail service as part of National Air Mail Week. Special cachets have been prepared to mark both events (see pg. 5).

This is RPA's premier annual event. This year we feature 15 dealers with stamps, envelopes, first day covers, supplies, postcards, coins, and other paper collectibles. The USPS will also be on hand with recent stamps and other philatelic material. The exhibit rows are overflowing this year with 112 competitive frames and five Court of Honor Frames. We welcome the Ontario County Historical Society who will exhibit a special collection of National Air Mail Week material from its collection.

For youngsters interested in stamp collecting, our youth table will be open for business and on Saturday we will award this year's Design-A-Stamp winners, selected from 36 entries this year.

For more information on ROPEX including a full schedule of events and a complete list of exhibits and vendors please visit our show webpage.

<http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html>

The [Granger Homestead Society](#), in conjunction with the [Ontario County Historical Society](#) and the Rochester Philatelic Association, is happy to announce its plans to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Canandaigua Air Mail service this month.

On May 18, 1938 at 11:45 AM, pilot Maurice Estey, carrying 1400 pieces of mail in three pouches, "circled his airship over a large crowd and then piloted his flight to Rochester", as reported by The Daily Messenger.

This was history in the making as Canandaigua represents the home of the longest-serving Postmaster General of the United States – Gideon Granger. Granger served from 1801-1813 under both Presidents Jefferson and Madison. Under his tenure postal service territories grew monumentally, road posts doubled from 20,000 to 40,000 miles and post offices tripled from 900 to 2700.

Twenty years ago, civic-minded former Canandaigua resident Dave Monahan generously donated his grandfather's hand stamps for the three commemorative cachets from the 1938 event to the Granger Homestead. Dave's grandfather was none other than John C. Monahan, Postmaster, Canandaigua, 1938.

Throughout this year, and particularly in May, this unique Air Mail Anniversary will be celebrated in Ontario County. One such celebration will be Thursday evening May 17th at 7:00 PM, the night before the ROPEX show and its celebration commences. At that time the Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum will unveil its new Anniversary Air Mail Exhibit at the museum at 295 North Main St. in Canandaigua. RPA members are invited. Business attire is recommended.

by Martha Herbig, Executive Director of the Granger Homestead



President's Message

Fellow RPA members,

It is that favorite time of year again. The snow is gone, Rochester is greening up, and ROPEX is upon us. My fellow stamp collectors, our annual ROPEX Stamp show will happen on May 18th and 19th at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center. **COME JOIN US** as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Air Mail service and the 80th anniversary of Canandaigua's first air mail flight.

If you can spare some time, come help set up starting at 8 AM Thursday May 17th or assist in manning a table during the show. Or stick around late Saturday afternoon to help us take it all down!

We will be displaying the entries in this year's Design-A-Stamp contest and announcing the winners.

So, fellow members, bring your spouses, your kids or grandkids and your neighbors for a fun weekend. See you at ROPEX

Larry Rausch, RPA President

Upcoming RPA Meetings

Thurs, May 10 "Small Stamps"

by Paul Brach

Thurs, May 24 "A Look Through Unusual Stamps"

an online program

Thurs, June 14 TBA

Thurs, June 28 Annual Strawberry Meeting

July 12 and August 9 Summer Meetings TBA

We have summer openings for programs. If you would like a forum to discuss your favorite philatelic venture, just tell us. Or if you just have an idea you might like the group to pursue, bring it to the attention of the group.

Meetings begin at 7 PM at the JCC in Brighton. The first half hour is for silent auction, show/ trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program begins at 7:30 PM.

UpComing Stamp Shows/Bourses

May 18-19 ROPEX (Canandaigua Civic Center)
Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-3 (free for RPA members, else \$2)
<http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html>
contact: Tom Fortunato: stamptmf@frontiernet.net

June 22-24 St. Catharines, ONTARIO
Royal 2018 Royale, **Canada's National Stamp Exp.**
Holiday Inn and Suites, Parkway Convention Center,
327 Ontario St. Hours: 10-6, 10-6, 10-4
Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca
Website: <https://www.rpsc.org/shows.php>

Aug 26 Rochester Stamps & Collectibles Show
North Greece Fireman's Field, 3666 Latta Road.
Hrs: 9:30-4:30. 8 dealers.
Contact: John Stoltz, 585-507-3533.
Website: <http://www.mccloudstampsandcoins.com/>
Email: jstoltz@rochester.rr.com

Visit our [online calendar](#) for even more area show news

Two New ROPEX Awards

RPA is proud to announce two new exhibit awards that honor two Life Members who contributed greatly to the Association and to ROPEX, both of whom have passed away since last year's event.

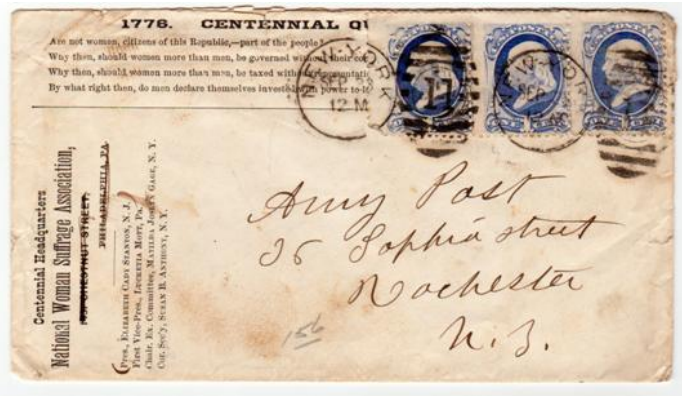
The **Frank Tritto Memorial Youth Grand Award** will be awarded to the best youth exhibit or youth contribution to the show. Frank's support of our Design-A-Stamp program and his passion for youth involvement with stamps will continue in his name. The award will be a gift card.

The **Rick Kase Most Popular Award** will be presented to the exhibit voted most popular by show attendees. In Rick's time with RPA, he served in virtually all the roles required to run ROPEX and we are pleased to be able to associate his name with an award determined by all show attendees. The winner will receive an annotated ROPEX paperweight.

National Woman Suffrage Association *by Larry Rausch*



In the summer of 1876, the United States celebrated its Centennial in Philadelphia Pa. The National Woman Suffrage Association used this occasion to draw attention to the inequitable position of women. They organized women from all over the nation to exchange their knowledge and experiences.



I discovered this interesting piece in a large lot of covers on our silent auction table some time last year. It is dated September 23, 1875.

The fine print on the cover advertises the mission statement of the National Woman Suffrage Association:

1. Are not women, citizens of the Republic-part of the people?
2. Why then, should women more than men, be governed without their consent?
3. Why then, should women more than men, be taxed, without representation?
4. By what right then, do men declare themselves invested with the power to legislate for women in all cases whatsoever?

In addition the cover lists the following officers:

Pres. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, N.J.
First Vice-Pres., Lucretia Mott, Pa.
Chair. Ex. Committee, Matilda Joslyn Gage, N.Y.
Cor. Sec'y Susan B. Anthony, N.Y.

The cover is addressed to women rights advocate **Amy Post**. Amy was a resident of Rochester, New York and resided at 36 Sophia Street (now North Plymouth Avenue). She and her husband, Isaac, had moved from Scipio, N.Y. to Rochester in 1836. Isaac started a drug store in the Smith Arcade on Exchange Street in 1839.

Because Susan B. Anthony was the corresponding secretary and a close friend of Amy Post, I wondered if she could have addressed this cover? A quick Google Image search using "Susan B. Anthony handwriting", provided the answer. The search included an 1879 Susan B. Anthony signature below which she had written Rochester. Now, I am not a hand writing expert, but this looks pretty conclusive to me. I believe I have a cover sent from Susan B. Anthony to Amy Post and I found it in a box of old stamped envelopes on the club silent auction table. How cool is that?

from my
envelope

from an
internet
image

Amy Post became active in the anti-slavery movement in Rochester and helped found the Western New York Anti-Slavery Society in 1842. Her home was a busy station on the Underground Railway. In 1844 she was a delegate for the annual meetings of the American Anti-Slavery Society and in 1852 the Society held its meeting in Rochester.

Post worked for woman's rights from the 1848 inception of the movement as well as the abolition of slavery. Later that year, she traveled 50 miles to the Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls. In 1872, along with Susan B. Anthony, she tried to vote in the national election but she was turned away. Amy Post died on January 29, 1889 and is interned at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester N.Y. She did not live to see it but the 19th amendment, women's voting right, was ratified August 18, 1920.

The full internet signature page where Rochester is clearly written by Susan B. Anthony in 1889.



My Cachet Covers by Kelly Armstrong

Editor's note: In April, RPA member Kelly Armstrong presented his story as a cachet maker to us at a club meeting. His presentation can be found [online](#). He has since scripted this version for Hinges and Tongs. [Kelly has own webpage](#) also.

My interest in cachet making comes from a strong interest in art. Following high school, I attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida. The school was founded by John Ringling (of circus fame). Ringling was a philanthropist and patron of the arts. Although I later attended RIT where I graduated with a BS in Business, my love of all things art has never left me.

Soon after I joined the RPA a long time ago (I am now a Life Member), Chuck Schultz, Rick Kase, and Joe Doles learned of my artistic interest and ability. They proceeded to introduce me to cachet making. I owe these fine gentlemen in a big way as they introduced me to a hobby (and later a small business) that has provided me endless hours of enjoyment throughout the past several decades.

When considering which USPS issues to make cachets for, it's a combination of what I find to be aesthetically pleasing and what my repeat customers collect. Some artwork ideas come quickly, and there are some that require much thought. Since I retired I began working on add on cachets in addition to current first day issues. These are any US covers with the first day cancel but no artwork. I buy these covers from dealers around the US. I add the cachets by hand. There is no margin for error. What makes this so much fun is the variety of topics to be worked on. On the backs of every add on cachet that I make, I write words stating- Armstrong Add On Cachet (and the date I worked on it). I am a very ethical businessman.

Rick Kase made a plexiglass envelope template for me many years ago which I still use. I use Prismacolor markers and palette watercolors. All of my cachets are colored by hand. For current issues I make my own envelopes and use an 80 lb weight, high cotton content, acid free paper. I have never had problems with markers bleeding through to the envelope backs of current issue or add on cachets. I am often asked how many different cachets have I

designed? Regrettably, I do not actually know: all I can say is "quite a few". And then which are my favorites, another tough question. For one reason or another I like them all. But one of my favorites has to be the 2004 Harry Mancini stamp. He was a famous composer and orchestra leader. He wrote scores of music for many motion pictures including the Pink Panther series starring Peter Sellers. The Pink Panther was originally a famous large gem in the first movie, but developed into a cartoon character. The Pink Panther always caused comical chaos. The cover that I made shows an orchestra all painted in the color pink. In the lower left corner you see part of his pink body.



Kelly Armstrong FDC with cachet for Scott #3839, April 13, 2004.

I'm also asked why I make cachets. My primary reason is that it gives me the opportunity to use the creative talent I have been blessed with. Also, I get to meet many wonderful and interesting people, some of whom become repeat customers. If I am able to bring them a little joy with my covers, then I feel good about it. Receiving a compliment means a lot to me and encourages me to continue to design them. In fact, I am currently working on designs for the new "air mail" stamps and for the Ice Cream Treat stamps that will be released in June. That will be a particularly fun issue with which to work.



A very recent Kelly Armstrong FDC cover cachet for this past March's Fred Rogers stamp, "Won't you be my neighbor"



Ann Triggie

1934 - 2018

Rochester Philatelic Association Life Member Ann Maureen Triggie (1985-1), passed away on April 26th after a long time illness at her home in Sarasota, Florida. She was 83. For many years Ann was on the ROPEX Committee in charge of exhibits and judges. She was a native of Wales, but to us she was our "Buffalo" connection, residing in Clarence, NY and a member of the Buffalo Stamp Club for many years.



Ann provides a helping hand during ROPEX exhibit set-up during her tenure as Head of the ROPEX exhibit judging committee.

Her philatelic accomplishments were varied and many. To name just a few, she was the US representative to the international FIP Thematic Commission, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Vice President and Board member, American Philatelic Council member, and director of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. She was named the American Topical Association's Distinguished Philatelist in 2006, that society's highest honor.

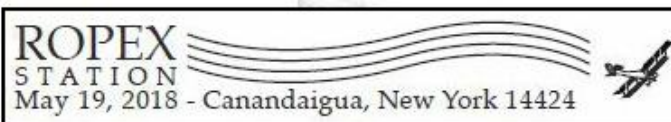
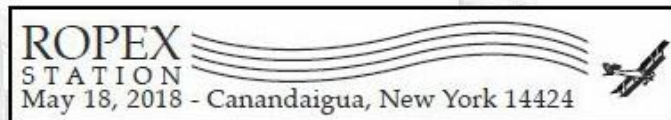
Ann served the American Philatelic Society in several positions—as a Board member and eventually Vice President, as Awards Committee Chair, and as Chairman of the Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges. She was an APS

national and FIP internationally accredited judge, exhibiting a variety of thematic and postal history subjects, often receiving gold medals along the way.

Despite her far-flung credentials listed above, Ann was very down to earth and always willing to share her expertise with others, whether they be beginners or well-heeled philatelists. She was a mentor to many RPA members who she encouraged to share their talents, not only locally, but with the many philatelic organization of which she was a part.

by Tom Fortunato

RPA Member Amy Rau designed the cancel and cachet for each day of ROPEX. A third cover will commemorate the actual flight and will include Amy's rendition of the original cachet from 1938. To view the entire suite, visit the [show webpage](#).





Frank Tritto

1923 - 2018

Lifetime Rochester Philatelic Association member Frank Tritto passed away on February 24th at the age of 94. Right up to his final battle with an aging heart in late 2017, Frank was a regular at our bi-monthly stamp meetings. Several of us were also honored to enjoy his company at our weekly Tuesday philatelic lunch breaks at the Morningstar Restaurant in Rochester. His humor, his kindness, his intelligence touched all of us each and every time we conversed.

In April of 2016, Frank participated in the Honor Flight, flying to Washington D.C. to view the WW II Memorial and receive appropriate recognition for his service. Frank was in the 3rd Wave to advance on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-day.



RPA member John Lighthouse was at the airport on the return of Frank's Honor Flight and captured him smiling grandly while waving the flag of the country he so proudly served and deeply loved.

Frank was a worldwide stamp collector and liked all things philatelic, but his specialty was Germany and German states. However, he was always genuinely interested in other's collections and interests, often providing an idea or an inspiration to fellow stamp collectors on how they might build their collections. Frank was still making his own album pages with an electric typewriter until weeks before his passing.

Frank was predeceased by his wife Ilse and will be sorely missed by his son Michael and his daughter Susanne. He also leaves five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and three siblings. And, of course, his philatelic family at RPA. His seat at the Morningstar cannot be filled.

by Fred Haynes



In September of 2013, RPA helped Frank celebrate his 90th birthday at a club meeting, complete with an inverted Jenny.

RPA Member Brad Sterling

Former president of the RPA (1985-1986), Brad (Brandon) Sterling, has been transferred to the Select Specialty Hospital in Erie, PA. after his cardiac surgery at Rochester General. Brad, who was an enthusiastic member of the Stamp Club and formerly active until he was unable to take part due to health problems, had successful surgery, but unfortunately suffered a severe stroke.

The facility in Erie has specialized equipment and personnel to care for patients with serious and complex health and recovery problems.

Should anyone wish to send a card or note, Brad's address is: Select Specialty Hospital-Erie, Room 209, 252 W. 11th St., Erie, PA 16501. He will doubtless welcome contact with old stamp friends.

by Ada Prill